

Explanation of Request #4

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Why divest from Israeli businesses?

[Israel is an apartheid state](#). Money is power—there is no end to apartheid without divestment. US direct divestment from companies in South Africa in the 1980s was one of the main reasons that South African apartheid fell. In 1986, South African Middlebury College students also worked tirelessly to make our college one of the 155 colleges in the country to divest from that oppressive regime. **Let's do it again!**

What do we know about Middlebury's investment in Israel Apartheid?

So far, we know that \$600,000 from the public holdings of Midd's endowment (which makes up only 20% of their holdings) is directly invested in Israeli Apartheid. Through transparency and pressure, we hope to uncover the private holdings' investment and hold the Board of Trustees accountable for divestment. An example of what this looks like is the [University of Michigan's Tahrir Coalition](#)'s report. They uncovered deep ties between the Israeli military-industrial complex and the university's endowment.

According to the Boycott, Divestment, and Sanction (BDS) movement, in 2005:

“We, representatives of Palestinian civil society, call upon international civil society organizations and people of conscience all over the world to impose broad boycotts and implement divestment initiatives against Israel similar to those applied to South Africa in the apartheid era. We appeal to you to pressure your respective states to impose embargoes and sanctions against Israel. We also invite conscientious Israelis to support this Call, for the sake of justice and genuine peace.”

- “Divestment from international companies pushes them to end their complicity. European banks and pension funds divesting from Veolia played a major role in persuading the company to exit the Israeli market and ending its role in infrastructure projects that served illegal settlements. A number of major European banks and investors have recently started to divest from Israeli banks because of the vital role they play in financing illegal Israeli settlements and Israel's occupation of Palestinian territory.”